

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 065506

15

ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 R

66624

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:A SHANKLE

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:A SHANKLE

----- 064510

O 230509Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065506

LIMDIS

FOL SAIGON 3267 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO IAEA VIENNA TOKYO
NHA TRANG MARCH 21; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3267

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM RESEARCH REACTOR SECURITY

REF: A) STATE 031164; B) STATE 062177

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A'S REQUEST, CONGEN NHA TRANG AND
APPROPRIATE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED
THE PHYSICAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GVN'S RESEARCH
REACTOR IN DALAT. WE HAVE REVIEWED THEIR FINDINGS AND HAVE
CONCLUDED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ADEQUATE FOR THE CURRENT
AND FORESEEABLE SITUATION.

2. THE PHYSICAL SURROUNDINGS OF THE SITE CAN BE DESCRIBED
AS FOLLOWS: (A) THE CENTER IS LOCATED ON AN OPEN HILLTOP
APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES FROM THE CENTER OF DALAT CITY. THERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 065506

ARE NO BUILDINGS OR RESIDENCES CLOSER THAN FIVE HUNDRED

METERS. FENCE CONSISTS OF A DOUBLE BARBED WIRE APRON BUT THE AREA IS NOT ENCLOSED. THE DISTANCE FROM THE BUILDING TO THE FENCE VARIES FROM FIFTY TO PERHAPS TWO HUNDRED METERS. THE GUARD FORCE CONSISTS OF FIFTEEN ARMED GUARDS ON THREE DAILY SHIFTS OF FIVE EACH. (B) THE BUILDING IS A CIRCULAR CONCRETE STRUCTURE WITH LARGE EXPANSES OF GLASS WINDOWS IN THE FRONT AND WALLS ABOUT SIX INCHES THICK ELSEWHERE. (C) THE REACTOR'S RADIOACTIVE CORE CONSISTING OF SEVENTY URANIUM RODS IS RECESSED IN THE GROUND AND SHIELDED BY A CONCRETE INNER PROTECTION EIGHT FEET THICK. THE SHIELD AND CORE COULD NOT BE DESTROYED BY ARTILLERY OR ROCKETS EVEN IF THE BUILDING ITSELF WERE COMPLETELY LEVELED. IF THE CENTER WERE OVERRUN OR OCCUPIED IT WOULD BE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE TO BE LOWERED INTO THE CORE WELL BUT THIS PRESUPPOSES THE ATTACKERS HAD THE KNOWLEDGE TO OPERATE CERTAIN EQUIPMENT, WHICH SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. IF THE CORE WERE EXPLODED, ONE COULD EXPECT RADIOACTIVE WATER AND OTHER DEBRIS WOULD BE DISCHARGED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA WHICH WOULD CONTAMINATE THE GROUNDS OF THE CENTER WITH RESIDUAL RADIATION FOR SOME TIME, BUT THERE WOULD STILL, IN PROFESSOR LONG'S EXPERT OPINION, BE NEGLIGIBLE DANGER OF RADIATION TO THE POPULATION OF DALAT. (LONG IS IN CHARGE OF THE REACTOR.)

3. GVN SECURITY FORCES IN THE AREA INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (A) TUYEN DUC SECTOR HAS FIVE RF BNS LESS TWO COMPANIES IN LAM DONG; 95 PF PLATOONS AND 20,368 PSDF, ALL AT FULL STRENGTH. IN ADDITION THERE ARE THREE COMPANIES OF FIELD POLICE AND THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE ADDITIONAL COMPANIES AT THE NPFF TRAINING CENTER IN DALAT. THE MILITARY ACADEMY STAFF AND CADET CORPS OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND ARE ONE KM FROM THE RESEARCH CENTER. (B) THE REGIONAL FORCES IN TUYEN DUC HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES AGGRESSIVE AND HAVE HELD THE TACTICAL INITIATIVE IN THE AREA FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

4. WITH INADEQUATE STAFF TO CONTINUE USEFUL RESEARCH, THE REACTOR HAS SIMPLY BEEN HELD IN A "CARE-TAKER" STATUS. THE ONLY PRESENT FUNCTION OF THE RESEARCH CENTER STAFF CONCERNS THE SECURITY, MAINTENANCE AND PERIODIC (WEEKLY) INSPECTION OF THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS: ELECTRONIC, COOLING, PUMPING, ETC. PROFESSOR LONG EMPHASIZED THAT THE REACTOR HAS NOT BEEN "MOTHHOLED"; IT COULD BEGIN OPERATION IN A MATTER OF HOURS IF A STAFF WERE PRESENT AND A NEED EXISTED. ALL COMPONENTS ARE FUNCTIONAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 065506

5. THEORETICALLY, OF COURSE, THE CENTER IS VULNERABLE TO ENEMY ATTACK. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INTELLIGENCE TO SUGGEST ENEMY PREPARATIONS FOR OR INTEREST TO ATTACK DALAT AT THIS TIME. SHOULD THIS SITUATION CHANGE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE AIR FORCE CONTINGENCY PLAN PREPARED IN 1969 FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY BE CONSIDERED FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

WE UNDERSTAND IT ENVISIONED DISMANTLING THE REACTOR, UTILIZING A C-130 EQUIPPED WITH HEAVY CEMENT CONTAINERS FOR EACH OF THE

SEVENTY RODS IN THE REACTOR. DUE TO THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION
HERE WHICH PLACES A HIGH PREMIUM ON ALL AVAILABLE VNAF C-130S,
AN OUT-OF-COUNTRY USAF C-130 WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.

6. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SECURITY
SITUATION AROUND DALAT AND WILL REPORT ANY CHANGES.
LEHMANN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, RESEARCH, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE065506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:A SHANKLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0662
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750324/aaaaavjg.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 031164, 75 STATE 062177
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM RESEARCH REACTOR SECURITY
TAGS: TECH, VS
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006